

****ATTENTION APPLICANTS****

Information Regarding the January 1, 2006 Implementation of the Board's Law and Professional Ethics Course Requirement

The Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) promulgated regulations which became effective in August 2005 to require completion of a board-approved law and professional ethics course by applicants, licensees, and petitioners. The Board is pleased to announce that two law and professional ethics courses, developed independently by the California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC) and the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), have been tentatively approved and are scheduled to be available via the Internet on January 1, 2006.

As provided in the Board's regulations, the course must be taken by 1) applicants prior to licensure, 2) licensees as part of their continuing education during every other renewal cycle, and 3) petitioners prior to reinstatement of a license. At its November 14, 2005 meeting, the Board determined the implementation date for the course requirement would be January 1, 2006. Course completion by licensees will be phased in over the next four years.

Accordingly, if your application for licensure is POSTMARKED on or after January 1, 2006, you will be required to complete the course prior to licensure.

Each of the board-approved courses are unique, though they both are 3-hours in length and consist of the following subject areas:

- Obligations of licensed respiratory care practitioners to patients under their care;
- Responsibilities of respiratory care practitioners to report illegal activities occurring in the work place; and
- Acts that jeopardize licensure and licensure status.

On or about January 1, 2006, the Board's website will include links to each course provided via the CSRC's and AARC's websites (the CSRC will also provide "live" sessions on designated dates). Please be advised that only ONE law and professional ethics course is required to be completed prior to licensure (either the CSRC's or AARC's course). Before deciding which course to take, applicants are encouraged to visit each providers' website to review additional information pertaining to the administration of each course. Each applicant can then select the course provider that best meets his/her individual needs. Below please find contact information for both providers:

AARC
(972) 243-2272
www.aarc.org

CSRC
(888) 730-2772
www.csrc.org

Additionally, for your reference, following please find the statute and regulations specific to the law and professional ethics course requirement.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the law and professional ethics course requirement, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (916) 323-9983 or toll free at (866) 375-0386.

Business and Professions Code (Effective January 1, 2005)

§ 3719.5 Professional course requirement

The board may require successful completion of one or more professional courses offered by the board, the American Association for Respiratory Care, or the California Society for Respiratory Care in any or all of the following circumstances:

- (a) As part of continuing education.
- (b) Prior to initial licensure.
- (c) Prior to consideration of a reinstatement petition.

California Code of Regulations (Effective August 17, 2005)

§ 1399.327. Satisfactory Completion of Law and Professional Ethics Course Prerequisite to License

Every applicant shall successfully complete a course in law and professional ethics as provided in section 1399.352.7 of this division, prior to initial licensure.

§ 1399.350.5 Law and Professional Ethics Course

(a) As part of required continuing education, every person licensed under this chapter shall successfully complete a course in law and professional ethics as provided in section 1399.352.7 of this division, during every other license renewal cycle.

(b) Continuing education units earned in accordance with this section shall represent three units toward the non-clinical practice requirements set forth in section 1399.350(a). However, the course may be taken for continuing education credit only once during any renewal period.

§ 1399.352.7 Law and Professional Ethics Course Criteria

An acceptable course in law and professional ethics shall meet the following criteria and be approved by the board:

(a) The course shall be provided by the American Association for Respiratory Care or the California Society for Respiratory Care.

(b) The course shall be three hours in length.

(c) The content of the course shall consist of the following subject areas:

- (1) Obligations of licensed respiratory care practitioners to patients under their care;
 - (2) Responsibilities of respiratory care practitioners to report illegal activities occurring in the work place; and
 - (3) Acts that jeopardize licensure and licensure status.
- (d) One hour of instruction shall consist of not less than 50 minutes of actual classroom time or actual time spent by the licensee completing the coursework on the internet.

§ 1399.372.5 Satisfactory Completion of a Law and Professional Ethics Course Prerequisite to Reinstatement

Every petitioner for reinstatement shall successfully complete a course in law and professional ethics as provided in section 1399.352.7 of this division, within 6 months prior to the date a petition for reinstatement is filed with the board.